Price of formulations

2083. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3291 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BICP is not verifying the purchase invoices in respect of bulk drugs having notified prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prices of formulations based on Ethambutol, Metranidazole, Gentamycin, Erythromycin, Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide and Ampicillin have been jacked up by taking the notified prices which are much higher than the market prices;

(c) whether decision not to verify purchase prices of bulk drugs wherever notified prices exist has the approval of his Ministry;

(d) if so what is the rational and justification for such a decision;

(e) whether it is a fact that such decision will provide undue profit to formulators at the cost of poor consumer; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons for not changing the decision?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (f) The prices of formulations are determined by BICP as per the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

Delay in commissioning of ONGC projects

2084. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many O.N.G.C. projects have been delayed in commissioning during the last five years;

(b) what are the reasons for such delay; and

(c) how do Government propose to ensure timely commissioning of ONGC projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Four of ONGC's projects have been delayed. These are Accelerated Plan of Production (APP), South Bassein Development Phase-I, LPG Project at Hazira and Gas Sweetening Plant Phase-I. The brief reasons for the delay in their commissioning are as under:—

Accelerated Plan of Production (APP)

During the course of the execution of the project some additional production data became available which necessitated the enlargement of the scope. The main objective of the project of production of 63.14 million tonnes of crude oil during 6th Plan period, has already been achieved. Except for permanent installation of some top side facilities, the project has been completed.

South Bassein Development Phase-I

The completion schedule of this project was extended due to subsequent discovery of Hydrogen Sulphide (H2S) necessitating certain changes in the scope of work.

Gas Sweetening Plant Phase-I

The commissioning of this plant was mainly delayed on account of the backing out of one of the contractors originally selected. Failure to commission the plant in time, did not affect gas availability.

LPG Plant at Hazira

This plant was delayed on account of delays in supply of certain critical materials.

(c) Beside the elaborate project monitoring system of ONGC at corporate, regional and project level, this Ministry also monitors the progress of the individual projects in various review meetings. The monthly monitoring of the projects is also done by a Ministry Monitoring Cell working under Engineers India Limited. In addition, Ministry of Programme Implemen-